

# December

Magic Lantern Society  
of the United States and Canada

NEWS 2019



LOOK for those Buttons and roll-over effects

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*Season's Greetings*

and  
joyus projecting  
to you all!

**Latest  
Update**



**19th International Convention**

**Convention 2020**

**June 11-14, 2020 • Cleveland, Ohio, USA**

The Magic Lantern Society of the US and Canada will hold its 19th International Convention and celebrate its 40th anniversary in Cleveland OH on June 11-14, 2020. The convention theme is “Forty Years of the Magic Lantern Society - Looking Back and Looking Forward” – featuring the best of the society’s 40 years and looking forward to the next 40 years. Where do magic lanterns go in the next 40 years? Find out - mark your calendar now, and plan to attend!

We’re planning a range of events, including performances, workshops, academic presentations, exhibitions, poster sessions and tours. We are especially seeking participation from students and newcomers to the society, and encouraging performances using Magic Lanterns, shadow puppets, projection mapping and related performances involved in light and shadow work.

**Proposals are due by December 15** and should be submitted to [briandrogers@gmail.com](mailto:briandrogers@gmail.com).

Here’s a sneak peek at the presentations scheduled so far:

### **Magic Lantern performances**

**A Faerie Trail.** Jeremy and Carolyn Brooker will present original magic lantern slides they made, a departure from their standard material. Jeremy is chair of the Magic Lantern Society in the United Kingdom.

**Love is in the Air.** Mark and Beth Ayers’ performance is set in 1896. It features a variety of authentic slides to describe several instances of love, some with comedic elements. It includes a selection of slides that feature “Jack and Angelina” as they fall in love, marry and honeymoon. Transition slides lead into a telling of “Curfew Must Not Ring Tonight.” The performance is accompanied with music using the hammered dulcimer.

**Once in a Blue Moon.** John Schroeder from the Institute for Industrial Art and History in North Andover MA will present a show based on their sets of 19th century astronomical slides.

**The Heart Booklet and The Fly.** Sue Hall will give two presentations, sure to have some humor!

**Magic Lantern Show.** Mike Ullrich, Emery Harmom and Kim Smeja will present their program, including a sing along, the Importance of Good Timing, the Wizard and the Ogre, and a Most Unusual Day in Davis Junction.

### **Presentations on magic lantern topics**

**Sliding into the Present: Four Contemporary Artists Re-Imagining the Magic Lantern.** Joel Schlemowitz will present a lecture, with video excerpts, surveying the work of four artists who have used the magic lantern as the basis for contemporary projection-based projects: filmmaker Ken Jacobs, animator and lanternist Melissa Ferrari, multi-media artist Yarre Stooker, and the presenter, filmmaker and lanternist Joel Schlemowitz.

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19th International Convention  
**Convention 2020**  
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**Buckeye Stereopticon.** Ron Easterday will tell the story of the Buckeye Company, based in Cleveland and demonstrate the Little Buckeye magic lantern projector with Cleveland and Ohio slides. If you have Cleveland or Ohio slides you wish to add to this presentation, please contact Ron.

**Prohibition is Better than No Liquor at All:** A History of the Temperance Movement. Nearly all of us have slides or sequences in our collections that deal with this, but don't have a very good understanding of the historical and social forces that helped create them. Larry Rakow will illustrate with appropriate slides from his own collection.

**When the Automobile Came to Yellowstone:** Bob Bennett will show the Union Pacific Railroad's promotional slides, made by the Haynes Studio, the official photographers of the park. The slides include a chant slide, a popular form of entertainment in the 1910s and 1920s.

**Arctic Exploration and the Magic Lantern.** Brian Rogers will show a variety of Arctic exploration slides, demonstrating how people viewed the Arctic in the 1800s was shaped by often-erroneous ideas of how the Arctic people and landforms actually looked.

**Hurdy Gurdy and the Magic Lantern.** Joanna Chesnut will show the close relationship between magic lanterns and hurdy gurdies in early 19th century entertainment.

**Rally Round the Flag.** Ron Easterday will present slides illustrating the civil war song Rally Round the Flag.

**Arresting Images.** Do you have slides that just wow you, intrigue you, or make you wish you knew the backstory? Here's a chance to share them. Bring up to 5 slides to show in a group-participatory session. You'll have a moment to explain what affects you about each. Inexpensive slides only, please (and if we have too many participants, we may have to reduce the number of slides per person).

### **Information sessions about using magic lanterns**

#### **Limelight and other illuminants.**

Lindsay Lambert will give a demonstration of limelight, kerosene, acetylene and carbon arc illuminants, finishing with a LED lamp lantern.

**Secrets of Success in a Magic Lantern Performance.** Terry Borton will reprise his 2010 Powerpoint presentation concentrating on the nitty-gritty, like a rock solid table so the image doesn't shake on screen, slides numbered so you don't lose track, and in a box so you don't drop them, etc.

**Repairing lantern slides.** Lindsay Lambert will provide a seminar on the care, re-binding and repair of lantern slides, including mechanical slides and the re-stringing of pulley types. He will present information about blacking backgrounds and colour touch-up, demonstrate materials and how to obtain them, describe principles and techniques, and address individual questions.

*continued next page*

# Convention 2020

**Master class.** Terry Borton will schedule one-on-one opportunities for members to work on and be coached on their skills, looking at such issues as vocal habits, drama coaching, physical stance, etc. Each roughly 20-minute coaching session will be private; members who wish to then make a presentation to the larger audience will be given a chance to do so. Members will need to sign up in advance for the Master class.

## Other Convention activities

**Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.** On Thursday, we've tentatively scheduled a tour of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

**Magic Lantern Sales Tables.** Slides, lanterns, books, ephemera and more – bring something to sell and take more home with you!

**Magic Lantern Society of the US and Canada business meeting.** Elections, financial report, and presentation of awards.

**Magic Lantern Auction.** On Sunday, our biennial Magic Lantern Society auction, with goods galore.

*Good food, good company, and more!  
Be there!*

## Some Information About Cleveland

**Clevelanders  
have always  
known  
their town  
is special!**



*PDF of above attached to this document*



## A New Exhibition

**Opening Nov. 25 at New York's  
Metropolitan Museum of Art**

**From Terry Borton**

### **Mechanical Wonders That Were Fit for a King**

In early modern Europe, royal collections blurred the line between art and science.

By Peter Saenger

Nov. 21, 2019 1:26 pm ET

The princes of early modern Europe had a boundless appetite for mechanical wonders and scientific curiosities. Primitive calculators and automatons that could write piled up in castles from Portugal to Poland, alongside ingeniously made pieces of jewelry and gilded casts of beetles and frogs. “Making Marvels: Science and Splendor at the Courts of Europe,” a new exhibition opening Nov. 25 at New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art, gathers more than 150 such items from the “cabinets of curiosities”—in German, Wunderkammer—that were popular from the 16th to the 18th centuries.



<https://www.wsj.com/articles/mechanical-wonders-that-were-fit-for-a-king-11574360810?mod=searchresults&page=1&pos=1>

## **Drawing of Franklin by Beale**

**From Jim Washington**

wsgallery221@gmail.com

I thought you might appreciate this Beale drawing of Franklin. It's a small signed sketch labeled "bottling lightning".

Best,

Jim

Washington Square Gallery





## Estate Find: Trove of Lantern Slides

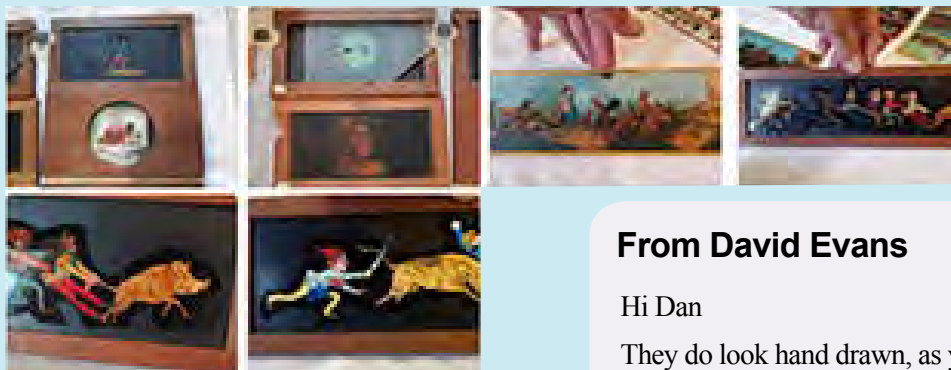
**From Dan Herzner**  
iamherznerd@gmail.com

Hi - I'm an estate liquidator and recently came across a trove of original magic lantern slides and kaleidoscope wheels. I'm attaching some photos of one of the sets. They are hand painted which (I think) would indicate pre-1850s. It's a 10 slide set in it's original box. There's a label on the box which reads "GLASER NO. 1"

I need to put the set up for sale for the estate but would like to get an idea of their value. Are there specialty auctions or sales for these items? The collector's name is David Tischler who had donated his lanterns and other slides to a museum and this collection I now have is what he held on to.

Anyhow, any assistance you can offer would be greatly appreciated, Thank you! Dan...

Hi again David and many thanks for your reply. I've created a Google Drive folder with 80 photos of the entire lot. I stretched out a ruler juxtaposed to all pieces so the viewer can get a sense of sizing. Having said that, the wheels are 3" in diameter - there are 6 of them in their original wood box. The spider slide: the web appears empty; the fly slides in from one side then the spider slides in from the other right on top of the fly. 2 of the movement slides are as subtle as the subject's eyes moving. Some of them depict full body movement. All slides in this collection are hand painted.



This collection is from the estate of David Tischler. Mr T was an avid collector and in the twilight of his life he donated his lantern collection to a museum along with lots of slides and ephemera. What I'm showing you here is what he decided to keep. Also included are letters of thanks to Mr T from the recipient museum. ALL of the provenance I have for this collection is included in the sale.

Here is the Drive link: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1zPq0iFSq0cbMrbozX3bxHbdPthhUVAgB>

I can't express my gratitude strongly enough in your offer to present this collection to the members of your association. Tell me please, when is the next issue of your e-pub due to go out? Also, can you give me your estimate on how much this collection might fetch? I ask these questions as I need to report this info to Mr T's estate. Thanks again David! Much appreciated...

Hey David, if I had my druthers I'd prefer to sell the lot. However, I hear you on breaking it up. So yes, if need be I'd entertain offers on individual slides. And it was my pleasure to take the photos. I'll tell ya what though it took me a while as I was abundantly cautious and moved at a snail's pace as to not damage anything! Thanks again and please keep me posted on when the email goes out

## From David Evans

Hi Dan

They do look hand drawn, as you say. Could you give me an idea of the size? They look quite small, but that might be an illusion. If they are about 3" wide by about 12" or so long, they would be counted as 'full size', for professional lanterns. Could you send a picture of the kaleidoscope wheels? These might be chromotrope discs or circular slides etc.

We could offer them for sale to our members on one of our monthly E-Publications or perhaps at our next Convention auction in Cleveland OH next June, if that would comply with estate disposal regulations. Otherwise, if there is an auction house in your vicinity you could try them.

Thank you for contacting us.

The 'wheels' you show here are chromotropes. They make very beautiful moving images when projected. These are obviously larger, again, could you let us know the sizes, as these were made in a variety of formats. As they are wood mounted I assume they are larger. Does the spider move in its web?

We shall put these in our next E-Publication without you needing to do anything else!

Regards David

## Tesseract Catalogue 110

From: David & Yola Coffeen

Hello,

For our new catalogue we are focussing on some of the rarest and highest quality instruments to have come our way, during our 37 years in business. Many are the very best of their types, some are unique surviving examples. Most are offered here for the first time. This is an exceptional opportunity to acquire some very important artifacts of the history of science and medicine.

Included are the earliest dated Gunter's quadrant, the c. 1795 large double version of the "New Portable Orrery," Benjamin Martin's "Portable Apparatus of Microscopic Instruments," a 1679 nocturnal with Samuel Sturmy's star disk, a unique example of Pierre LeConte's early 17th century all-purpose "Radiometre," an incredible three-pole lodestone, the ultimate scientific compendium, the only Sanskrit double astrolabe for both hemispheres, a 16th century "Holland Circle," Nystrom's calculating machine, a hallmark inspector's verification plates, the complex ophthalmotrope of Professor Ruete, and an extraordinary collection of neuropathology replicas.

Prices range from \$9800 to \$135,000, and everything is fully illustrated, described, and priced.



The printed catalogue can be ordered from us (\$10, or \$35 for four issues), or it can be downloaded for free at <http://www.etesseract.com/C110.pdf>

Dozens of other items are listed on our website <http://www.etesseract.com/>

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From John Gallaro

<http://scalar.maryborgoton.com/shininglights/index?fbclid=IwAR119411bywVjMVstyS5YKqNmSja6NPPdA0Seu5dIHlBNevxzoPgsHaMM28>



This dissertation was written by Mary Borgo Ton for her Ph.D. in British Literature at Indiana University and was defended successfully as a fully digital project on August 16th, 2019. Please join the author in celebrating the generosity of private collectors, museums, and special collections who have provided material for this project.

### The Beginning of the Abstract

This dissertation excavates the global history of early screen culture by studying the letters, journals, and published autobiographies of four missionaries who used projection equipment: John Williams, David Livingstone, Samuel Crowther and his son Dandeson. As the most detailed eye-witness accounts of lantern shows on the fringes of the empire before the advent of photography, these primary sources enable me to reconstruct the images that missionaries showed, explore the local context of these events, and discuss the representation of magic lantern shows in letters, journals, and diaries.



### From Sonny Weeks

sonny@usaweb.com

Hi my name is Sonny and I came across around 600 slides hammer dry and Eastern. Most are from WW1 and propaganda slides. I'm trying to learn more about these slides. I appreciated any help you can give.

We are interested in selling the collection. We believe we know who the photographer is. I'll send you as much info as I can tomorrow as well as some additional photos. Thx SW

EB was a native of Raleigh and here is what we found on him. I'm sure that all the slides are not his, but definitely some are.

In 1944 the D.C. Public Library purchased over 1800 lantern slides and glass plate negatives from E.B. Thompson for \$1,000. Mr. Thompson was a photographer who in 1904 opened a store that sold "stereopticon supplies, cameras, lantern slides," and other photographic equipment at 1343 F St., NW.

His camera shop moved numerous times in forty years, ending up finally at 1744 Columbia Road, N.W. In 1944, his business



letterhead advertised his store as selling "Sound and Silent Motion Pictures and Slides". He offered to sell his collection of images of Washington, DC to the DC Public Library as he prepared to retire from full time work after a long illness in 1944.

Starting in 1946 the DC Public Library contracted with the Library of Congress to create 8x10 black and white prints on mounts from his collection of slides and negatives. The prints are now part of the Washington, DC Historical Image Collection in the Washingtoniana Division. The collection's strengths are in its images of federal buildings, the Arlington National Cemetery, federal memorials, national parades, historic houses, and street scenes.



### From David Evans

Hi Sonny

Thank you - are they all unmounted? Lantern slides generally have cover glasses and taped edges and measure 3 1/4" x 4" to fit standard slide carriers. The subject matter looks historically fascinating. Are you keeping them as a collection, trying to dispose of them, or just seeking information? We will put them in our next monthly E-Publication (December) and see if any of our members have comments. Are there any notes about where the pictures were taken or anything?

Regards

David





## Magic Lantern

**From Kristina Pelletier**

kristina\_pelletier@yarmouthschools.org

Hello,  
I just inherited a TH Mc Allister magic lantern and 7 boxes of slides. The lantern has been electrified, is in an original looking wooden box, and has two attachments.

Can you recommend someone to help me to learn more about it, if there is a market for it, and what it's value is?

Thank you.

Kristina

Kristina Pelletier  
Special Education Teacher  
Harrison Middle School  
Yarmouth, ME

Hello David,

Thank you for your response. I have attached 24 pictures. Please let me know if you are not able to open them.

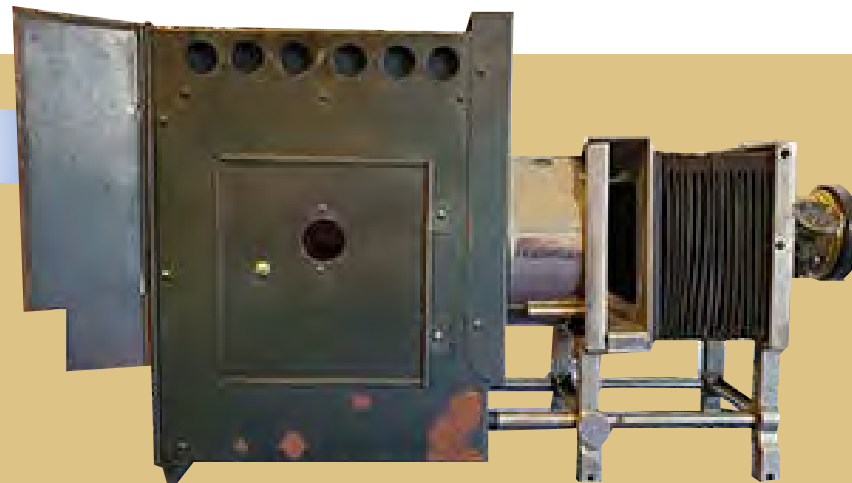
Hebert Spinney owned the Magic Lantern. He was my aunt's husband's grandfather. He was a lighthouse keeper at Sequin Island here in Maine. He was a collector who loved the Maine coast and birds. I have not looked at every slide yet but it seems that they are all either coastal shots or birds. There are about 60 slides in a box and 7 boxes. I have included a sampling of pictures of the slides for you. Some look to be in color and are dated in the 1920's. Is that possible?



Is there some place where I can see sales of similar items? I have tried searching the internet and am not finding anything like what I have.

Thank you for your time. I have really enjoyed learning about this attic find. It quite interesting.

Kristina



**From David Evans**

Hello Kristina

Thank you for contacting us.

McAllister was a good maker, but they made many different models. Could you send us a picture of it? We can add it to our monthly

E-Publication (next one is December) saying, perhaps, open to offers? Are the slides standard size 3 1/4" x 4"? Are they in sets, like stories or lectures, or are they just random images? Again, could you send a few pictures and can include these too. We have a number of members on the East Coast and it may well be that someone would be interested in purchasing it from you.

Thanks again.  
David Evans



## THE INVENTION OF A RESTORATION: THE NAPOLEON ABEL GANCE

**Georges Mourier's Lecture**

**From Laurent  
Mannoni**  
l.mannoni@  
cinematheque.fr



**Conservatory of techniques  
French Cinematheque, 51 rue  
de Bercy, Paris 12th**

**Friday, December 6, 2:30 pm,  
Henri Langlois Room**

Projections of many documents and the  
sequence of Cordeliers (La Marseillaise).  
Interventions of Nelsy Zami, R & D  
engineer; Lucas Boubel, media engineer;  
Rémi Achard, R & D engineer

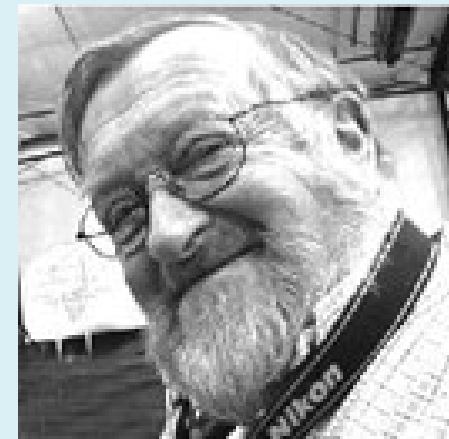
Laurent Mannoni  
Directeur scientifique du Patrimoine  
et du Conservatoire des techniques  
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75611 Paris cedex 12  
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Portable : 06 23 91 46 05  
[http://www.cinematheque.fr/fr/catalogues/appareils/  
collection.html](http://www.cinematheque.fr/fr/catalogues/appareils/collection.html)



## **Loses Long Time Member and Friend**

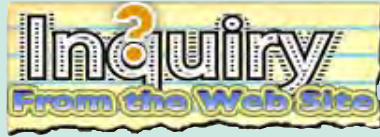
**John Martin Potter Dec. 21, 1942 Nov. 7, 2019**

John grew up in N. Tacoma and spent most all of his summers out on Vashon Island. He would glow as he told stories of the old mosquito fleet and rowing around the Island in a claw foot bathtub with his friend. He graduated from Washington State University with a degree in Anthropology and then joined the Navy. He served in the "Silent Service" as an Electrician's Mate where he earned his Shellback and his Dolphins and was discharged as a Petty Officer Second Class (E5). After he got out of the Navy, he met the love of his life in Portland, OR. Betty and John were married on March 17, 1973. They relocated to Tacoma, WA and John started a new career as a computer programmer before being such a thing was cool. They relocated to Puyallup and spent the next 40 years in their home there. Of course, he still spent as much summer time as he could out at Vashon! John was an extremely dedicated family man whose favorite thing was spending time with his children and grandchildren. His second passion in life was his "Magic Lanterns". He had a large collection of the handmade glass slides numbering in the tens of thousands. As an avid historian, John belonged to several



historical societies and offered his services whenever he could to share a bit of history, especially if it was of the Pacific Northwest! John is survived by his wife of 46 years, Betty; his children, Allin (Theresa), Amy (Michael), David (Lindsey), and Dennis; 10 grandchildren; and by his sisters, Ruth (Kip) and Jane. John went home to be with the Lord surrounded by family.





## Magic Lantern Slide Info

### From Rick Herzog

rickzog4@yahoo.com

<https://www.collectorsweekly.com/stories/262733-babe-ruth-magic-lantern-slide-red-sox?in=user>

I have a magic lantern slide of Babe Ruth (link to pics and description above) and I am just wondering if you think it's from the period that it depicts. I know it's not from 1914 because the original picture that it shows is from 1917, so the labeling is wrong.

I have some pics of it zoomed in to show you the texture and that there aren't half tone dots to show it was printed on a modern printer.

In your opinion, do you think this was doctored/created to look like a glass lantern slide from the period, or if it is an authentic and maybe amateur-made lantern slide from the period?

Thanks for any help.

Thanks David. I never even considered the landscape vs portrait. That makes sense. Appreciate the feedback and thanks for your time.

Rick



### From David Evans

Dear Rick

I would say that it is undoubtedly made up, for several reasons:

1. The format is wrong for a lantern slide - should be landscape format, not portrait. It could not be used in a magic lantern as it is.
2. There is no slide mask - images were almost always masked with a black paper mask, often with rounded inside corners, to give the image a more artistic look.
3. If it were actually created in 1914 of course it would pre-date the original! So at the very least the label is spurious and added later.

I've no idea about when it was made up, but using photographic techniques it could be done without pixelation.

Hope this helps, and thank you for contacting us.

David Evans

## Heritage in the Limelight

### From Martyn Jolly

Martyn.Jolly@anu.edu.au

#### The Magic Lantern in Australia and the World Sydney Performance

On the evening of 4 October 2019, in a sandstone gaol built by New South Wales convicts in the 1830s, a thirty-minute magic lantern dissolving view show was staged by the Australian Research Council Project Heritage in the Limelight in collaboration with the National Art School, The Power Institute Foundation for Art and Visual Culture, and Sydney Living Museums.

Produced as the closing event for a symposium on 'The Australian Object', the show responded to the collection of one of the historic houses managed by Sydney Living Museums — Rouse Hill House and Farm, situated forty kilometres northwest of Sydney. In 1860 the wealthy pastoralist Edwin Rouse, who was styling himself as a local squire, purchased a music box from the Sydney clock makers Walker & Jones. A few years later Major Thomas Wingate purchased a Newton & Co, 'improved phantasmagoria' magic lantern, complete with a typical collection of slides from the period including a chromatrope, several sets of story slides including John Gilpin's Ride, Pussy's Road to Ruin and The Tale of a Tiger and a Tub, exotic view slides, and comic mechanical slides.



a tropical scene painted by the contemporary artist Waratah Lahy dissolved over a vintage slide of a dock side scene, where the poster in the original slide has been blacked out.

We started with several original chromatropes accompanied by electronically modified recordings from the actual Rouse Hill music box. Next came the popular children's story Pussy's Road to Ruin using equivalent slides to those at Rouse Hill and accompanied by a reading from the original script along with improvised vocalisations, sound effects and music. We followed that with various comic slides in the same style as those at Rouse Hill, accompanied by improvised vocalisation, sound effects and music.

Our magic lantern show was not held at Rouse Hill, but at the site of one of Terry's 1960s psychedelic performances, the Cell Block Theatre, which had been converted from the colonial gaol into an inner-city theatre in the 1950s. Our musician Alexander Hunter and vocalist Heather Keens provided music, electronics, vocals and sound effects and Martyn Jolly and Elisa deCourcy operated the magic lanterns. We did not use the Rouse Hill lantern or slides, instead we projected equivalent slides from the same era in the Heritage in the Limelight collection through a pair of dissolving lanterns with a 'batwing' dissolver manufactured by James Steward in the 1880s.



From the set Pussy's Road to Ruin



Mechanical slides projected (sequence top then bottom)

The video link is:

<https://soad.cass.anu.edu.au/media/magic-lantern-show-inspired-rouse-hill-house-cell-block-theatre-national-art-school-sydney>





## to Inquiry From November Issue

## Magic Lantern Identification

**From Gordon McCalmont**  
gordonmac@sky.com



Hi Larry,  
Do you ever follow a story and are sometimes disappointed that it never really reaches a satisfactory conclusion? Well with a bit of effort I managed to get the magic lantern to work. It's not fantastic but good enough to prove a point.

I thought you might like to know.

Cheers

Gordon



## **A Big Thank You to the following:**

*contributing to this months issue.*

<b>Terry Borton</b>	<b>Kristina Pelletier</b>
<b>David &amp; Yola Coffeen</b>	<b>Brian Rogers</b>
<b>Ron Easterday</b>	<b>John Tyler</b>
<b>David Evans</b>	<b>Jim Washington</b>
<b>Dan Herzner</b>	<b>Sonny Weeks</b>
<b>John Gallaro</b>	
<b>Rick Herzog</b>	
<b>Martyn Jolly</b>	
<b>Laurent Mannoni</b>	
<b>Gordon McCalmont</b>	

### **Now it's your turn to share!**

Do you have a favorite site or a collection of images you would like to share with the rest of the society?

**E-mail Larry**

## **Welcome New Member**

### **Christina Corfield**

375 Grand Avenue Apt. 104  
Oakland  
CA 94610

E: tinacorfield@gmail.com

Ph: (415) 710 9913

Adjunct Professor, Media Studies

Interests: lanterns, slides, literature and Kinetic Devices, especially paper artefacts such as tunnel books.



## **When its Moonlight on the Prairie**

### **From John Tyler**

john@tylers.com.au

Hi there and thank you for taking the time to read my 'cold-call' email.

On clearing a house recently I came across an original box of 18 x 3inch square hand coloured slides (presumably magic lantern) of a show entitled 'When its Moonlight on the Prairie' (by kind permission of Miss Rosie Lloyd). Do you have members in Australia who may be interested in them as I have been unable to actually find any details of a similar society in the antipodes.

Trust its not too cold in Canada yet. Just hot and dry in Sydney!

Cheers  
JT



Picture of the singer.

### **From David Evans**

Hi John

It is a song-slide set - illustrations to go with a vocalist. These were popular around the turn of the 20th Century. "When It's Moonlight On The Prairie" is a popular song published in 1908 with lyrics by Robert F. Roden and music by S.R. Henry. The lyrics tell of a cowboy eloping with his Mary.

We do have members in Australia, so we can add these to our next monthly E-Publication (December). Do you have a few pictures of the slides? That would probably help with disposal of them.

If it came to it, would you be prepared to ship it to North America?

It depends which part of Canada - many areas in the central part have snow, where we are on Vancouver Island it is warm and sunny, but rain storm expected at the weekend. I don't envy your hot and dry!

Thank you for contacting us.

David Evans